REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars.

1. In the claims

In the Amendment to the Claims, claim 15 is amended to recite that the "entirety" of one of the radial surfaces of the piezo-electric element is directly glued onto the membrane. Support for this amendment is found in the drawings in Figs. 1, 3-9, 18 and 19, and in the specification on page 5, lines 21-24.

Entry of the amendment to claim 15 is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

2. Rejection of claims 15-21 and 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,332,029 (*Azima*)

Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendment to claim 15 from which the remaining claims in this rejection depend.

Specifically, it is submitted that nowhere in *Azima* is there any disclosure or suggestion of a piezo-electric element having a radial surface, the entirety of which is directly glued onto a membrane.

It is clear from *Azima* that indeed while piezo-electric elements are glued to a membrane, only portions of the piezo-electric elements are glued to the membranes.

For example, Figs. 14 and 15 of *Azima* show embodiments wherein only the circumferential edges of the piezo-electric elements or benders are glued onto the panels. In fact, the center portion of the piezo-electric element is specifically described as being suspended freely from the panel which is in direct contradistinction to the limitation of claim 15 (col. 32, lines 61-66; col. 33, lines 8-16 referring to the embodiment of Fig. 15 being similar to the embodiment of Fig. 14).

Thus, the piezo-electric element of these embodiments cannot therefore be considered to be glued with an entire radial surface onto a membrane as required by pending claim 15.

Also, in observing Fig. 24 of *Azima*, the piezo-electric element is attached onto a metal disc which is glued onto a panel. More specifically, Fig. 24 shows a transducer in the form of a crystalline piezo-electric disk (27) that is mounted on a metallic carrier (118) which in turn is mounted onto the membrane (2). The entirety of a radial surface of the disk in this embodiment cannot be directly glued to the membrane since it is instead glued directly to an intermediate element in the metallic carrier which in turn is secured to the membrane.

Hence, in the embodiment of Fig. 24, it is readily apparent that the piezo-electric element is not glued with one radial surface onto a membrane, as again required by pending claim 15.

The specific construction of the transducer of pending claim 15 is advantageous in that by applying the membrane with a layered structure of the type with the entirety of a radial surface of a piezo-electric element glued thereon, depending on the desired application, the rigidity and thickness of the membrane can be adjusted in order to obtain a more accurate reproduction of an applied signal (page 6, lines 1-4).

In view of these observations, it is clear that *Azima* does not teach or suggest each of the features required by amended claim 15. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of claims 16-21 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,332,029 (*Azima*)

Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendment to claim 15 from which the claims of this rejection depend. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the dependency of these claims from claim 15.

4. Conclusion

As a result of the amendment to claim 15 and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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